

MISSIONS DES OBLATS DE MARIE IMM. - VOL. 86<sup>E</sup> - N. 295 MARS SEPT. 1959

# MISSIONS

DE  
LA CONGRÉGATION  
DES

## Missionnaires Oblats

DE  
MARIE IMMACULÉE

86<sup>ème</sup> TOME (1959)

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# Report

## on St. Peter's Province (1959)

There have been no changes in the boundaries of St. Peter's Province since the last Chapter. We still have houses in the Archdiocese of Halifax in Nova Scotia and in twelve other dioceses as well as in the Vicariate of Keewatin. The Vicariate of Prince Rupert is an integral part of the Province. Our Fathers exercise their ministry in every one of the Canadian Provinces, although there are four Provinces in which we have no houses or residences, i.e., Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec. To travel from Shubenacadie in the Province of Nova Scotia to Kakawis on the west coast of Vancouver Island one must cover a distance of approximately four thousand miles, which is about twice the distance from Newfoundland to Ireland. This indicates the problem of administration and the vast amount of travel that the Provincial must undertake in caring for the 47 Houses, Residences or Stations extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans.

### I. - PERSONNEL

The personnel of the Province is as follows:

1 Archbishop, 1 Bishop, 154 priests in the active ministry, 12 young priests taking the Pastoral Year,

53 scholastics (of whom 4 are priests), 38 lay brothers, making a total of 259 professed Oblates. There are 13 scholastic novices, 5 lay brother novices, 2 postulants and 25 juniorists. Five Fathers are pursuing higher studies and there is one scholastic in Rome.

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>Fathers</i>	<i>Lay Brothers</i>
80 and over	4	2
70 - 79	3	4
60 - 69	4	2
50 - 59	35	5
40 - 49	52	12
30 - 39	59	1
Under 30	11	12
Average Age	44	44

## II - WORKS

The works of the Province may be classified as follows:

Education - Our houses of formation (Holy Rosary Scholasticate, St. Theresa's Novitiate, St. Anthony's Novitiate).

St. Patrick's College, Ottawa (High School, Faculty of Arts, School of Social Welfare, Institute of Social Action).

St. Francis Xavier High School, Edmonton, Alberta.

Catholic High School, Prince George, B. C., Vicariate of Prince Rupert.

Nine Indian Residential Schools.

Parishes - There are 25 parishes, 12 in the Province and 12 in the Vicariate.

Indian Missions - More than 90.

Parish Missions.

Retreats to priests and religious

Closed retreats.  
Vocation Recruiting.  
Social Action.  
Association of Mary Immaculate.

### *New Foundations*

Since 1953 there have been ten new foundations

- Shubenacadie, N.S.; Kuper Island, B.C.; Edmonton, Alberta; Duncan, B.C.; St. Anthony's Novitiate; Villa Madonna Retreat House, Ottawa; Ucluelet, B.C.; Anahim Lake, B.C.; a second parish in Prince George, B.C.; Moricetown, B.C.; and Sioux Lookout, Ontario. There have been three suppressions, namely, Digby, N.S.; Annapolis, N.S.; and Haney, B.C. The Indian School at Shubenacadie was previously under the direction of the diocesan clergy, while that at Kuper Island as well as the Duncan District were formerly under the care of the Monfortian Fathers. The Oblates now have all the Indian work in B.C.

## III. - HOUSES OF FORMATION

### A. - ST. THERESA'S NOVITIATE, ARNPRIOR.

This Novitiate is the only foundation we have in the Diocese of Pembroke. Since 1953 one hundred and thirty-seven have been admitted to the Novitiate, of whom 81 made first profession, i.e., approximately 60%. At the present time there are thirteen Scholastic Novices out of fifteen who entered in the fall of 1958. We still face the difficulty of a deficiency in Latin on the part of many candidates who come to us from various high schools. To remedy this regular classes in Latin are given to all the Novices. No additions have been made to the Novitiate building, although the matter has come up for discussion again during the past year.

#### B. - S. ANTHONY'S NOVITIATE, GLOUCESTER.

In 1953 a Lay Brother's Novitiate was opened at Waupoos Island, the summer home for the Scholastics. However, after two years it was found to be an unsuitable location and the Novitiate was transferred to Gloucester, about twelve miles from the City of Ottawa. It is located on a farm of four hundred acres. Very little alteration to the house were needed and so far it has proved to be a very fortunate transfer. There are five Novices and two Postulants at the moment. Two years ago we acquired by bequest a beautiful farm at Enfield, N.S. In view of the fact that so many of the candidates for the Novitiate come from the Maritime Provinces, we are giving serious thought to setting up the Novitiate there.

#### C. - HOLY ROSARY SCHOLASTICATE.

Three years ago a new Chapel was added to the Scholasticate with a seating capacity of one hundred and twenty. This has provided extra space in the other parts of the building and allows comfortable accommodation for eighty Scholastics. In addition to the 175-acre farm operated at the Scholasticate we have acquired additional land at Waupoos, Ontario. In all there are approximately 800 acres. The beef herd has been increased to about 200. As a result of very careful and efficient management the Scholasticate now provides more than half the revenue required for its operation. It supplies milk, beef, pork and eggs to all our Houses in Ottawa and to several other communities.

*Staff:* Two years ago four members of the staff of the Scholasticate were sent to pursue higher studies, in order to make certain that our Fathers on the teaching staff would measure up to all the

requirements of Sedes Sapientiae. In order to do this we sent all the Philosophers to St. Paul's Seminary for two years. Two Fathers will return in September 1959 with their Doctorate and the Philosophers will take all their classes at home. Next year two more Fathers will obtain their Doctorate. It is our intention to continue sending Fathers to pursue higher studies in order to insure a staff of highly trained experts in their various fields.

*Studies:* The course of studies at the Scholasticate comprises three years of Philosophy and four years of Theology. Each year a certain number of the Scholastics obtain the degree of B.A. from St. Patrick's College by following additional extramural courses. In some cases they obtain the degree by taking summer courses at Ottawa University after Ordination. As time goes on more and more of our young Fathers will be teaching in our different educational institutions, and we are taking steps to insure that all those who may be required as teachers have the opportunity to obtain a degree during their regular course at the Scholasticate. It is interesting to note that more of our young Fathers express a desire and willingness to teach than was the case formerly.

#### D. - THE PASTORAL YEAR.

Our young Fathers after completion of their studies at Holy Rosary Scholasticate follow the course in Pastoral given at Pius X Pastoral Institute of Ottawa University. Their week-end work in the ministry is carried out at one of our own parishes in Ottawa. Although the course are all conducted in French our young Fathers have been able to follow them and derive a great deal of benefit. It is planned to offer the courses in English before too long.

## E. - ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE.

With a staff of twenty-nine Fathers and four Lay Brothers this is the largest house in the Province. The registration in the high school had to be curtailed two years ago because of overcrowding. The situation has been somewhat improved because a new high school, conducted by the Basilian Fathers, was opened a year ago in the west end of the city. The high school enjoys an excellent reputation in educational circles and its future is secure. In the faculty of Arts the registration is also increasing, though somewhat more slowly. With gradually increasing grants from the Federal Government, the College finances are in a very satisfactory condition. Because of this and because of a grant of \$ 125,000 from the Canada Council, a new five-story wing is under consideration at the present time. It is probable that construction will start this autumn.

The School of Social Welfare continues to flourish. It is the only Catholic English language school in Canada and it thus fills a very important need. Here too it has been found necessary to curtail registration because it would be impossible to find suitable agencies for the students while they are doing their field work. The School has made such a favourable impression on the Ontario Government that it is now receiving a \$ 10,000 Provincial grant annually in addition to the per capita grant from the Federal Government. Another Oblate, trained at the New York School of Social Work, has been added to the staff. It is only fair to state that much of the credit for the success of this school is due to the devotion, hard work, and organizing ability of the Director, Father Swithun Bowers.

The Institute of Social Action, founded in 1950, is engaged in a wide variety of work all aimed at preparing the ordinary layman to play his rightful

role as a member of the Mystical Body. Regular courses are given on the Mystical Body, Preparation for Marriage, Family Life, the Lay Apostolate, Social Action, Trade Unionism, etc. A course on Labour Unions and a Guide to Co-Operative Housing have gained wide popularity. The Institute helps Youth Organizations throughout Canada by publishing programs for meetings and the like. It also ably assists the Social Action Department of the Canadian Catholic Conference.

**F. - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL, EDMONTON.**

In September 1957, at the request of the Archbishop of Edmonton, two Fathers were sent to teach in St. Joseph's High School. In September 1958 they transferred to St. Luke's High School in Jasper Place, a suburb of Edmonton. At the same time the Archbishop offered the Oblates the new St. Francis Xavier Parish in Jasper Place. The first Pastor will take up his duties there in August and another Father will be sent to teach. In September these three Fathers, along with a staff of Sisters and lay teachers, will open classes in the beautiful new St. Francis Xavier Senior High School. We are all most grateful for this opportunity to establish ourselves in this growing city of Alberta. The high school is owned and operated by the Roman Catholic School Board of Jasper Place and our Fathers will receive an annual salary. One of them will be Principal of the school. The parish church will be erected a short distance from the school.

**G. - CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, PRINCE GEORGE.**

Due to the initiative and energy of Bishop O'Grady, Vicar Apostolic of Prince Rupert, a new High School was opened in Prince George in 1957. This is a remarkable effort for several reasons, one



of the most important being that it is an integrated school for whites and Indians. In 1959-60 the full four-year high school course will be offered. An Oblate Father is Principal of the school and he is assisted by two Sisters of St. Anne and a layman. This is the only high school in the Vicariate under Catholic auspices. There are plans at some future date for a Junior College as well. The venture of educating whites and Indians together has proved remarkably successful in Prince George and the example is being followed by several other Ordinaries in British Columbia.

#### IV. - PARISH WORK

Sixty-four priests and six lay brothers are attached to our parishes. There are twelve parishes in the Province proper and thirteen in the Vicariate of Prince Rupert. The following are the parishes in the Province proper:

St. Joseph's, Archdiocese of Ottawa  
Canadian Martyrs', Archdiocese of Ottawa  
St. Ann's, Ancaster, Diocese of Hamilton  
Sacred Heart, Sioux Lookout, Diocese of Fort  
William  
St. Ann's, Flin Flon, Vicariate of Keewatin  
St. Joseph's, Saskatoon, Diocese of Saskatoon  
St. Patrick's, Lethbridge, Diocese of Calgary  
St. Francis Xavier, Jasper Place, Archdiocese  
of Edmonton  
St. Ann's, Penticton, Diocese of Nelson  
St. Augustine's, Vancouver, Archdiocese of  
Vancouver  
St. Peter's, New Westminster, Archdiocese of  
Vancouver  
Holy Family, Ucluelet, Diocese of Victoria  
St. Edward's, Duncan, Diocese of Victoria

In the Vicariate we have the following parishes: Sacred Heart, Prince George; Annunciation, Prince Rupert; St. John's, Fort St. John; St. Patrick's, McBride; St. Joseph's, Smithers; Sacred Heart, Terrace; Christ the King, Kitimat; Assumption, Telkwa; St. Frederick's, Giscome; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Burns Lake; Our Lady of the Snows, Fort St. James; Church of the Child Jesus, Vanderhoof; St. Mary Magdalen, New Hazelton.

In the parochial ministry our Fathers serve about thirty thousand souls. Several of our parishes are very large. Every effort is being made to provide adequate staffs but in most of the parishes the Fathers are overworked, trying to cope with the demands of the ministry today. In spite of this our parishes are considered to be models in the respective dioceses. The instruction of converts, teaching Catechism in the schools, acting as Chaplains of different types of Catholic Action groups, and money-raising projects are occupying more and more of the time of the Fathers. It is a credit to the Fathers that their parishioners respect and revere them and that they continue to frequent the Oblate parish even after they have moved to others.

Notable material improvements have been completed since the last Chapter; a beautiful new rectory in Lethbridge; a church, school and parish hall in Ancaster; a church, high school and convent in Flin Flon; a church in Penticton, to mention only a few.

## V. - THE INDIAN APOSTOLATE

In the Province of British Columbia the Oblates are known to all as the Apostles of the Indians. Thirty-seven priests and twenty lay brothers are engaged in this work. In British Columbia we have eight Indian Residential Schools located at Mission City, Kamloops, Williams Lake, Lejac, Cranbrook.

Sechelt, Kuper Island and Kakawis. We also operate the residential school at Shubenacadie, N.S. As a rule the Fathers live at one of the schools and visit the different missions at regular intervals. In each school there is a Principal and several lay brothers whose duties are only in the school.

In addition to the elementary education given in all our residential schools, three of them, St. Mary's, Mission City, St. Louis, Kamloops, and St. Joseph's, Williams Lake, offer high school courses. The high school at Kamloops has for many years been a model. A new school has been built at Williams Lake and construction of a new school at Mission City will begin this fall.

In the work of Indian education the Oblates are aided by a devoted group of auxiliaries in the persons of the Sisters of St. Anne, Sisters of the Child Jesus, Sisters of Charity of Halifax, Benedictine Sisters, Sisters of the Immaculate Heart, and Sisters of Christ the King.

For some time the Department of Indian Affairs has been promoting with great enthusiasm the idea of integration of whites and Indians in the schools. The Department is quite ready to assist any Bishop financially in the construction of a parochial school, either high or elementary, provided he agrees to admit Indian children. Recently an official of the Department admitted that their ultimate objective is hand over the administration of education of Indians to the various provinces. We Oblates view this prospect with a great deal of apprehension. Under the present Indian Act Catholic Indians are guaranteed the right of education in Catholic schools. If education is handed over to the Provinces, this right may gradually be denied. In addition many of us are convinced that there are a great many Indian children who are not ready for integrated education.

Several of our Indian missionaries have organized the Legion of Mary on some of their reserves with most gratifying results. It is becoming apparent that the lay Indian has a role in the Mystical Body just as the white layman has. Now the missionary is aided in his fight against alcoholism by the laymen and women themselves. As Provincial I can say that our Missionaries are characterized by a zeal and love of souls that is truly edifying.

The maintenance and repair of the churches on the Indian missions presents quite a problem. In most cases the contributions from the Indians themselves are neglected and would scarcely pay for the gasoline used by the missionary. We receive no funds from the Society of the Propagation of the Faith. We received last year more than five thousand dollars from the Pontifical Institute of the Holy Childhood which was divided among the twenty missionaries. The Catholic Church Extension Society has also given us some help. In some cases Indian Band funds have been used for major repairs but as a rule we cannot count on this source. The missionaries have organized raffles, bazaars, and other devices for raising money, and the Province has contributed a considerable amount.

## VI. - PREACHING MISSIONS AND RETREATS

Our Mission Band is quite small, consisting now of five full-time Fathers. However, several Fathers engaged in teaching or parish work are called on to preach retreats, especially to religious, and to assist the Mission Band in giving parish missions. There seems to be a tendency now to have parish missions in Lent or during the autumn season. Rarely do pastors want Missions at other times. During the other periods of the year the missionaries are kept busy with retreats to religious, novenas, Forty Hours,

closed retreats, retreats to students, and Sunday preaching in different parishes. Our Fathers are in great demand for retreats to Sisters, especially in the East, and it is impossible to take care of all the requests. Now that all our young Fathers must take their Pastoral Year prescribed by «*Sedes Sapientiae*» it is our intention to pick out those who give promise as preachers and to assign them to the Mission Band so that they can be coached and trained by the Fathers with experience in this work. We are well aware that by preaching missions and retreats we are making ourselves better known, which is a very important consideration in the work of recruiting.

#### *Closed Retreats*

In December 1957 the Archbishop of Ottawa requested us to take over the work of closed retreats in his Archdiocese. We were most anxious to do this, as our Fathers had often been called on to conduct closed retreats in the old Villa Madonna Retreat House. With generous financial aid from His Excellency and from the English parishes in Ottawa a new Retreat House was planned. Construction was started in September 1958, and the building was completed in May 1959. We now own a beautiful building with accommodation in private rooms for 37 retreatants. The diocesan priests of Ottawa and Pembroke used the house this year for their annual retreat and all were high in their praise of the plan and accommodation. Four Sisters of the Grey Nuns of the Immaculate Conception are in charge of the housekeeping and kitchen.

The Oblate staff consists of the Director and two other Fathers. During the first year one of these Fathers conducts the retreats for men. Next year they will exchange duties. Our experience has been that retreatants prefer to have a different Retreat Master for successive retreats. The Archbishop of

Halifax has asked us to take charge of a Retreat House which he expects to build in 1960. With two retreat houses it will be possible to assign four Retreat Masters who will be changed every two years. The acquisition of this retreat house in Ottawa was probably one of the most important accomplishments of the past six years.

## VII. - RECRUITING VOCATIONS

Our Province is one of the few in the Congregation which has no Juniorate in the strict sense of the word and although we have quite a number of young men who are pursuing their studies in view of entering our Novitiate, yet the principal work of the Vocation Director consists in finding candidates for the novitiate. St. Patrick's College may be considered to be a quasi-juniorate as far as we are concerned. Each year a number of students attend St. Pat's in order to complete their studies or because there is no Catholic high school in their community. Each year we send a few students to the juniorate at Newburg in the first American Province. Others attend St. Jerome's College, Kitchener, where an intensive Latin course is offered. We have had several students in the Minor Seminary at Mission City, B.C.

The task of encouraging and attracting recruits to our ranks is one that should appeal to all of us who are fortunate enough to be Oblates. In addition to the Director of Vocations, who resides at the Provincial House, there are Vocation Recruiters in each parish and at St. Patrick's College. There is also a Vocation Recruiter in each Indian Residential School. During the past few years several vocational projects have been undertaken and have been blessed with happy results.

In the month of November « open house » is

held at Holy Rosary Scholasticate. This attracts about one hundred senior high school pupils. The scholastics act as « tourist » guides and conduct groups of ten through every department of the building from the chapel to the boiler room. A talk is given in the students' recreation room along with the showing of films and explanation of a specially constructed map of Canada on which every Oblate center is indicated by a small light. Before the students leave Solemn Benediction is given in the chapel. These open house days are always pleasant and profitable.

Each year during Lent specialized vocational retreats are also given at the scholasticate. A limited number of 15 can be accommodated. So many young men have asked to attend that it was found necessary this year to hold four retreats. The retreatants remain for three days and besides the special conferences given to them they follow the regular routine of the scholastics, attending all community exercises. Each retreatant is given a « guardian angel », a scholastic who acts as a personal companion. It has been found that these retreats are one of the best means of acquainting young men with our way of life. The presence of these young men in the house interferes in no way with the scholasticate schedule. We are most grateful to the Superior and staff for the hospitality and co-operation they always accord us on these occasions.

Vocation workshops are held annually in late June. One is conducted at Waupoose, the summer home of the Scholastics, for recruits from the east, and another at Kuper Island, B.C., for the west. Special lectures and conferences are given and the regular Oblate daily regulation is followed. In 1958 the workshops were attended by sixty-five high school students. As a follow-up of the workshop week a vocation club has been formed in Ottawa

In it are twenty-five young men who meet monthly at the Provincial House. Their interest is sustained by keeping them busy in the interest of « Oblate Missions » and the Association of Mary Immaculate.

Because we have no juniorate it is essential that a constant and active campaign be carried on with every possible project of interest to prospective novices. An extensive mailing list is in use and each month more than 125 hopeful candidates receive personal letters from the Director of Vocations. They are also sent copies of four different Oblate publications. This form of recruiting has been most successful in securing lay brother vocations, more vocations than we have experienced in the history of the Province. Because of this and because there is now a special novitiate for lay brothers, we are optimistic both for an increase in vocations and for their perseverance afterwards.

#### VIII. - MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MARY IMMACULATE

The present enrolment of the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate numbers 6,489 living members and 4,249 deceased. Some five years ago, due to rising costs, the membership fees were doubled. This caused quite a substantial drop in membership but it has been gradually building up again thanks to the devoted efforts of zealous local promoters under the guidance of active local directors. Local centers are established in ten of our parishes. In eight of these there are active promoters, varying in number from as few as eight to as many as sixty-five. These form the solid heart and backbone of the Association's efforts. In each of the local centres a special annual appeal is made for new memberships. The follow-ups and renewal reminders are handled by the promoters. In those areas



where there is no local centre, individual promoters, working directly with the central office, help to spread the work of the Association. The introduction of greeting-card type living membership enrolments and memorial card type deceased enrolment in addition to the regular perpetual enrolment plaque, has been well received both by promoters and individual members, and has increased interest in enrolling new members.

The annual Novena of Grace in preparation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is conducted on a Province-wide scale. The actual novena is held at the shrine in St. Joseph's Church, Ottawa, but members in all parts of the country are encouraged to join in spirit in the prayers of the novena and to send in their petitions and requests. All the local centres also hold the novena services in their respective churches. In five of the parishes the weekly novena is held for the Association and all members are urged to attend. A regular monthly meeting for promoters is held in each local centre at which special prayers are offered for Oblate Missionaries. In two of the parishes an annual closed retreat is held for Association members. Two others have a day of recollection annually.

Besides the actual recruiting of members for the Association, the promoters use many means, limited only by the ingenuity and enthusiasm of the local Director and the members, to provide financial assistance for the aims of the Association. Some of the methods used are: sale of religious articles, sale of home baking, sponsoring of concerts and entertainments, managing refreshments at bazaars and exhibitions, raffles, rummage sales, and collecting used clothing for the missions. In several centres the members do sewing for the missions. The members of one centre help as salesladies in department stores on special days and donate their earnings to

the Association. In the Ottawa area the promoters are invited to the Scholasticate once a year for an evening of entertainment provided by the scolastics.

Beginning in September the Director will have another Father as an assistant. The Association magazine « Oblate Missions », will probably be published six times per year instead of quarterly. We feel that we should be able to double the membership and an intensive effort will start this fall.

## IX. - THE VICARIATE OF PRINCE RUPERT

While the Vicariate of Prince Rupert is an integral part of the Province this report would be incomplete without a special section on this important field of Oblate work. The Vicariate comprises an area of 134,000 square miles in northern British Columbia between the 53rd and 58th degrees of latitude with the exception of the districts of Atlin and Telegraph Creek which belong to the Vicariate of Whitehorse. Most of the towns and cities are strung from east to west along the line of the Canadian National Railway. North of the railroad are Fort St. John and Fort St. James, while to the south of Terrace is the thriving town of Kitimat. The Vicar Apostolic is now in the process of transferring the Vicarial Residence from Prince Rupert, in the extreme west of the Vicariate, to Prince George, which is more centrally located. Prince George has grown to such an extent that a second parish has to be established. It is predicted that it will eventually be the second largest city in British Columbia.

During the past three years a great deal has been accomplished in a material way. New schools have been built at Kitimat, Burns Lake, Smithers, Vanderhoof, Terrace and Prince George. Other schools are planned for Hazelton, Fort St. James



and Fort St. John. A second parish has been established at Prince George and another at Dawson Creek. This gives the Vicariate a total of thirteen well-organized parishes. Most of the schools are integrated, that is, they are for whites and Indians. There are many Indians in the Vicariate and a few of the Fathers are engaged almost exclusively in Indian work. Other stationed in white parishes have one or more Indian Missions to care for. The Indian Residential School at Lejac has an enrolment of 175 pupils.

The main problem in the Vicariate are scarcity of money and lack of personnel. The Vicar Apostolic has made heroic efforts to raise money for the numerous projects that he deems essential. During the past year about 12 young men have volunteered to work for a year in the Vicariate without salary or remuneration of any kind. They are referred to as Frontier Apostles. The staff of thirty Oblates, four Redemptorists and one secular priest are severely over-worked. The Province is making every effort to send Fathers to their assistance but with the expansion for all types of work it is becoming increasingly difficult to take care of all our needs. A visitor to the Vicariate cannot but be impressed by the zeal, devotion and self-sacrificing spirit of the Fathers and Brothers.

In his Act of Visitation, Very Rev. Joseph BIRCH, O.M.I., Assistant General, made the following remark: «With the rapid development taking place in the Vicariate the time seems to have come for a closer knit Oblate organization. This would be brought about by the grouping of residences and stations into canonical districts, each with its own Superior and Council, as described in Art. 516 of the Rules and Constitutions. Such a step would benefit the religious life and administration of the Fathers, be advantageous to the welfare of the Vicariate, and

in conformity with the Rules and the instruction of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, to whose jurisdiction the Vicariate belongs »

## X. - RELIGIOUS LIFE AND SPIRIT

Various Canonical Visitors have observed that « As a general rule, the Fathers and Brothers are serious and devoted religious. In the exercise of their priestly duties the Fathers manifest a splendid spirit of personal devotedness and interest in the work assigned to them. Our good Brothers are really exemplary and we do not hesitate to affirm that there are amongst them men who are profoundly holy religious: men steeped in the science of, and sanctified through the faithful practice of, the love of God and of their neighbour ». In all his canonical visits the Provincial has insisted on the faithful observance of the daily regulation, the importance of meditation and mental prayer, on the importance of good example, and of the duty of Local Superiors and Directors to watch over the religious life of their subjects. The Provincial attends the annual retreats and presides at the closing ceremonies. To the best of my knowledge the monthly retreat is held in all our houses and residences.

Whether there is more or less holiness among the Oblates of St. Peter's Province than there was six years ago is a question that only God can answer, for He alone knows the hearts of men. In many cases there could be improvement. But I do believe that there is an excellent spirit of obedience to lawful authority. There is a bond of unity and cooperation with authority and a spirit of genuine fraternal charity. With very few exceptions our Oblates are zealous, hardworking, and keenly interested in the work that has been assigned to them. We believe that our scholastics are receiving at

Holy Rosary Scholasticate a training that is second to none and we all have reason to be proud of the calibre of the young priests who are now going out into the various fields of work in the Province.

## XI. - CONCLUSION

St. Peter's Province is making steady and continual progress. There has been nothing sensational about this progress but it is healthy and sound. We have been very successful in our recruiting. In the past six years forty-five priests have been ordained. For four years the average number of novices making first vows has been twelve. There has been a remarkable increase in the number of lay brothers. There have been ten new foundations since the last Chapter, several of them very important ones. Our finances are in an excellent state from every point of view, so that we have been able to undertake improvements and expansion that were never dreamed possible a dozen years ago.

For all this we are grateful to Almighty God and to our Immaculate Mother. From the human point of view, this progress has been due mainly to the zeal and devotion of our Oblate-minded Fathers and Brothers and to all of them I extend most sincere thanks and gratitude.

L. K. POUPORE, O.M.I.  
*Provincial*